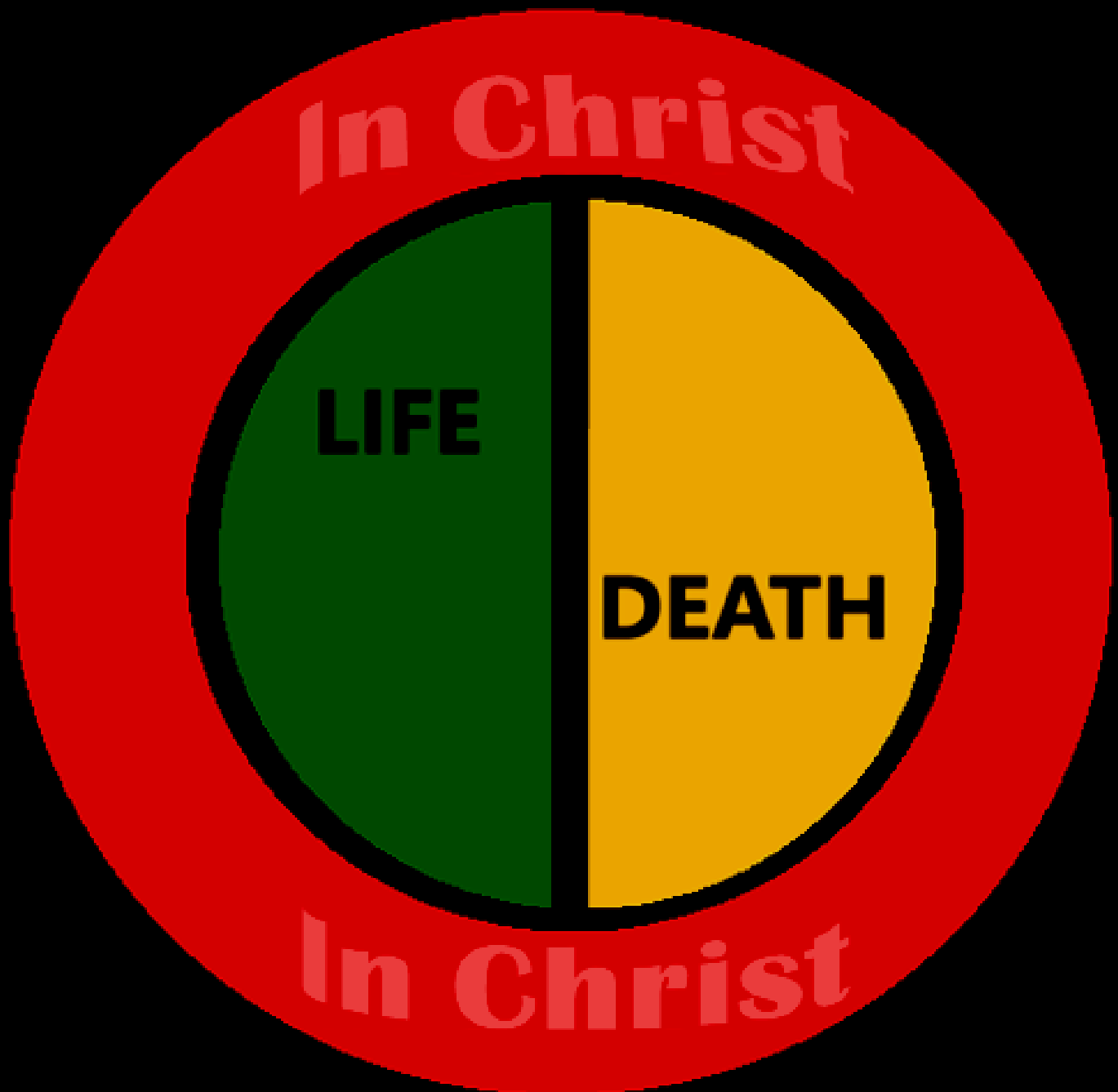


March 5

Philippians 1:20-23

“Life or Death?”



²⁰ According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

²² But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

²³ For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a

**desire to depart, and to
be with Christ; which
is far better:**

This is an example
of the way true
Believers should
view the issue of life
vs. death. Here, the
word, “strait” is
similar to a fork in
the road.

Paul is saying: there are two roads in front of me. I could comfortably take either path—physical life or physical death. They both have benefits, but I'd really rather depart (die) and be with Christ.

“To die is gain”
since death is an
improvement, but
even in living, Christ
is honored within
my body.

The writer is
certainly not
describing any fear
of death. Likewise,
there is no love for
physical existence on

earth, except to
do well while here,
hence, the phrase,
“the fruit of
my labor”.

He is not, as many
are, clinging to every
molecule of
existence or
hoping to extend
time here for
as long as possible.

There is a balance of accepting physical life, in which, “Christ is magnified in my body” while still preferring physical death because it means actually being with Christ and he is magnified in that as well. Verse 20, again, says, “Christ shall be magnified in

my body, whether it
be by life, or by
death”.

For the Believer,
that’s the important
issue concerning life
or death—that Christ
is magnified.